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LIFE&ARTS

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WE ASKED

We asked UT students on campus if they believe college classes will be online in their lifetimes, and if they should be? **PAGE 4**

TODAY

Texas baseball plays Sacramento State
Texas Longhorns baseball hosts the Sacramento State Hornets at UFCU Disch-Falk Field. The game begins at 6:30 p.m. and tickets are from \$5-\$12.

"Arnold Newman: Masterclass" exhibit
"Face to Face" is the opening celebration for the photography exhibition "Arnold Newman: Masterclass" at the Harry Ransom Center at 7 p.m. Event includes refreshments and a drawing for a Newman-inspired prize package. The event is free for members and \$20 for nonmembers.

Terri Hendrix at the Cactus
Singer/songwriter Terri Hendrix takes the stage at the Cactus Cafe with her eclectic brand of Americana, encompassing folk, pop, country, blues and jazz. The event begins at 8 p.m. and is \$20 for admission.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1950
Walt Disney's animated feature "Cinderella" opens in theaters across the United States.



Full Service to play at Local Live.
LIFE&ARTS PAGE 9



Texas opens season at home Friday.
SPORTS PAGE 6

SYSTEM

Regents OK fixed-rate tuition options

By **Jordan Rudner**

Beginning in fall 2014, all nine academic institutions in the UT System will offer a four-year guaranteed tuition option. The UT System Board of Regents approved the tuition plan at its meeting Thursday, after the

board's Academic Affairs Committee approved the measure Wednesday.

Under the guaranteed tuition plan, a student's tuition will stay the same for four years, even if the University increases tuition during that time. Currently, only UT-Dallas and UT-El Paso offer fixed-rate tuition programs.

UT-Dallas established a mandatory guaranteed tuition program for students who entered in fall 2008 or later and has the highest tuition among universities in the System. UT-El Paso has offered an optional guaranteed tuition program since fall 2006.

"Guaranteed tuition plans

allow students and families to better plan for the cost of a degree, rather than being subject to unknown annual increases in tuition," according to the System's recommendation.

Average full-time tuition at UT-Austin has increased from \$3,500 in fall 2004 to \$4,895 this semester.

Mary Knight, associate

vice president and budget director at UT, said offering a fixed-rate option means universities must engage in a considerable amount of budget forecasting to pre-empt unexpected drops in enrollment, state financial aid or any other factors.

BOARD *continues on page 2*

MEET THE CANDIDATES

By Christine Ayala | Photos by Chelsea Purgahn



HORACIO VILLARREAL AND UGEO WILLIAMS

Horacio Villarreal and Ugeo Williams are running to include student opinions more in the work of Student Government, improve safety on and around campus and better serve the community and students. Villarreal is a history senior and Williams is a sociology and education senior.

"We want to give students something to be influenced by and be inspired, with this idea of unity, of coming together to bring this to life," Williams said.

Villarreal said their alliance will focus on strengthening Student

Government's connection to the Senate of College Councils and Graduate Student Assembly.

"We want to increase the participation of our legislative student organizations," Villarreal said.

Williams said they would like to make the campus more comfortable for new students by implementing a mentorship program in which upperclassmen could apply to help them adjust.

"That would allow about 30 percent of the student body a chance to mentor a new student," Williams said.



CONNIE TAO AND RYAN UPCHURCH

Connie Tao and Ryan Upchurch plan to improve Student Government meetings and help underrepresented students on campus. Tao is a radio-television-film, finance and business honors junior and Upchurch is a finance junior.

Tao said they are campaigning to increase attendance at meetings through any means possible.

"We we're willing to do whatever it takes to make sure that every meeting can actually happen because the reps show up: Chain

reps to their chairs, give out free puppies, Mayan sacrifices, tell them there will be a test," Tao said.

Upchurch said their campaign is aimed at assisting students disadvantaged by their hair color.

"I'm for increased representation of the ginger community's interests," Upchurch said. "Millions of gingers suffer from sunburn every year. We deserve to have sunscreen dispensers in every bathroom on campus."

Tao said they aim to attract other minority groups as well.



CHRIS GILMAN AND ALISON STOOS

Chris Gilman and Alison Stoos are running in hopes of bringing a lazy river to campus to ease transportation from class to class and bringing alcohol onto campus.

Gilman is a radio-television-film junior and Stoos is an English and theater and dance senior.

Gilman said the student body doesn't need to know anything about the two other than that they love UT.

"We're walking at a normal pace for SG executive alliance because we want the student body to relax, open up wide to our ideas and enjoy a long year of unmitigated pleasure with their student

government," Gilman said.

The alliance's platform is simple — pizza balls.

"Christians have a crucifix, we have a pizza ball," Gilman said.

Stoos said the alliance would like to raise funds for the Greatest Industry Relics and Their Hits club, an organization which honors deceased '90s R&B singers and rappers, and is against anti-livestock abuse.

"Our stances and platforms are guaranteed to stay clear and very black and white," Stoos said. "We won't change our opinions to a confusing 40 or 50 shades of grey — we know what we believe."



SANDRA OGENCHE AND JUSTIN SHANK

Sandra Ogenche and Justin Shank are running to students by expanding certain current initiatives and improving students' daily experience. Ogenche is an undeclared major planning junior and Shank is a biology senior.

Ogenche said day-to-day activities inspire students and the duo want to make the activities better or easier for students on campus.

"Our big five ideas are the 24-hour shuttle, implementing beer sales at football games, an SAC on Riverside, Wednesdays with UT and a petitioning platform on the SG website," Ogenche said. "With

a lot of hard work, student support and help from our administrators, these are feasible ideas we hope will make our campus even better."

Ogenche said the alliance aims to focus on areas students would like to see improved.

"We represent everyone on this campus. Our team is comprised of people from every background, and it would be contradictory to our message to focus on any single issue or group," Ogenche said. "This isn't about what Sandra or Justin wants, it's about what you all want."

RYAN SHINGLEDECKER AND MADDIE FOGEL



Ryan Shingledecker and Maddie Fogel are campaigning for more open communication between Student Government and students.

Shingledecker is an international relations and global studies senior and Fogel is an English junior.

"We're passionate about empowering students to reach their full potential by making the most of student government," Shingledecker said. "We truly believe that everyone here has inherent value and the capacity to be a force for change in the world."

The alliance, if elected, plan to make student life on campus more comfortable by

trying to bring Redbox DVD rental kiosks and food trucks to campus, providing tailgate areas, improving the quality of the toilet paper in campus restrooms and providing late night bus service to students living in the Riverside and North Campus areas.

The two also plan to implement a system called the "voice box," which would allow student to suggest their own improvement ideas.

"It's essentially a comments section to hear people's ideas for any legislation, or proposed change," Fogel said. "Big or small, if it benefits the student body, we want to do it. It can be as simple as saying, 'Those futuristic couches in the SAC stink.'"

INSIDE

Read about 2012 SG election disqualifications. **NEWS p. 2**

NEWS BRIEFLY

NYPD to issue tickets, stop pot arraignments

NEW YORK — New York City plans to stop booking and arraigning many people arrested on low-level marijuana-possession charges.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Thursday that the change will take place next month.

People who get picked up on charges of having a small amount of marijuana will be released with desk appearance tickets if they have ID and no open warrants.

It's been about 35 years since state lawmakers raised the bar for booking people instead of ticketing them on marijuana-possession charges. But those arrests have soared in the past 10 years.

Land killings case delayed in Paraguay

CURUGUATY, Paraguay — The prosecutor says he has no physical evidence showing who killed six police officers during a land dispute that prompted the downfall of Paraguayan President Fernando Lugo. He says he didn't even try to determine who killed 11 farmworkers who also died when the bullets started flying.

Even so, Jalil Rachid concluded that 10 peasants who survived the fusillade should be charged with attempted homicide.

On Thursday, Judge Jose Benitez indefinitely delayed his preliminary hearing after peasants and their supporters accused him of "malfeasance" for hearing the case despite having ruled in 2009 that a politician, Colorado Party Sen. Blas Riquelme, could annex the land in question. That ruling was later appealed.

—Compiled from Associated Press reports



Gerald Herbert | Associated Press

A disabled Carnival Cruise Lines ship is towed to harbor off Mobile Bay, Ala. on Thursday. The ship with more than 4,200 passengers and crew members has been idled for nearly a week in the Gulf of Mexico following an engine-room fire.

Crippled cruise ship nears land

By Jay Reeves & Ramit Plushnick-Masti
Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — This is not at all how it looked in the brochure: Pulled by a tugboat at a maddeningly slow pace, the ill-fated cruise ship Carnival Triumph finally drew within sight of land on Thursday as miserable passengers told stories of overflowing toilets, food shortages, foul odors and dangerously dark passageways.

Around midday, four days after the 893-foot ship was crippled by an engine-room fire in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico, the more than 4,200 passengers and crew

members suffered another misfortune when the towline snapped, bringing the vessel to a dead stop just when it was getting close to port.

The towline was quickly replaced, and the crawl to Mobile resumed. The ship was expected to arrive around midnight Thursday. Officials said it would take passengers up to five hours to get off the ship, and then they faced an hours-long bus ride or other travel hassles to finally get back home.

Frustrations with the cruise line simmered on and off the ship, as passengers and their relatives questioned why it had taken so long to get back to dry land. The ship left Galveston a week ago.

As the vessel drew within cell phone range, passengers vented their anger.

Renee Shanar, of Houston, was on board with her husband, who has heart trouble. She said they were told they will be among the first to disembark.

"I don't believe them. They've been lying to us from the beginning," Shanar said.

Disgusted by the foul air and heat of the lower decks, many passengers hauled mattresses and bed sheets onto the top deck and slept there, even staying put in a soaking rain. As the ship approached the coast, a slew of Carnival workers arrived, removed the bedding and took it downstairs.

"Today they cleaned the ship, they're serving better food, covering up basically, but at least they're making it more bearable," said Kallin Hill, of Houston, who boarded the Triumph as part of a bachelorette party.

When passengers disembark, their stay will be short. Carnival said they were being given the option of boarding buses directly to Galveston, Texas, or Houston — a roughly seven-hour drive — or taking a two-hour bus ride to New Orleans, where the company said it booked 1,500 hotel rooms. Those staying in New Orleans will be flown to Houston on Friday. Carnival said it will cover all the transportation costs.

Papal secrets come to light after abrupt resignation

By Victor L. Simpson
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — For an institution devoted to eternal light, the Vatican has shown itself to be a master of smokescreens since Pope Benedict XVI's shock resignation announcement.

On Thursday, the Vatican spokesman acknowledged that Benedict hit his head and bled profusely while visiting Mexico in March. Two days earlier the same man acknowledged that Benedict has had a pace-maker for years, and underwent a secret operation to replace its battery three months ago.

And as the Catholic world reeled from shock over the abdication, it soon became clear that Benedict's post-papacy lodgings have been under construction since at least the fall. That in turn put holes in the Holy See's early claims that Benedict kept his decision to himself until he revealed it.

Vatican secrecy is legendary and can have tragic consequences — as the world learned through the church sex abuse scandal in which bishops quietly moved abusive priests without reporting their crimes.

"You have to understand that actually every Vatican employee and official takes an oath of secrecy when they assume their job," said John Thavis, author of "The Vatican Diaries," an investigation into the workings of the Holy See.

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VIEWPOINT

WE ASKED: ONLINE CLASSES

THE QUESTION: Do you believe online classes will replace physical classes in your lifetime? Should they?

Austin Smith
History senior from Houston

I don't think that they will, and I don't think that they should. Because the experience you get with a professor, when he's physically in front of you, makes you immersed in his discussion and in his passion in what he's talking about, and you're not going to get that in an online course where you're staring at a screen.

Willa Kaough
International relations sophomore from Elgin

I know that there is a fear, especially among professors, that online classes will mean the downfall of physical classes, but I don't think that's true. I think there are always going to be people who will prefer physical classes. I definitely don't think they should replace physical classes. I think the student-professor relationship is really important, and being able to communicate with your peers and your professor is really important.

Leon Leid
Latin American Studies graduate student from Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

I don't know that they will. I just registered for a course yesterday on EdX. I don't plan to take the course, but I wanted access to the syllabus. It's on global poverty, and there's a great book that they're using. So I access it through our library, and so I have this book to read. So, you know, I think it's going to be supplementary for a while, if for nothing else, to the value of a degree. But whether they should? No, I don't think they should ever completely replace the classroom. There is something to be said for being able to associate with professors, and being able to be with classmates, which I guess can all happen online as well. But I think that human interaction is always a good part of education, but as a supplementary material, I'm pretty excited about the future of EdX. If I'd been asked five years ago, I never would have thought anyone would offer this for free. I think it's pretty exciting that anyone who has an Internet connection, which again is ignoring a large part of world population, but it's at least an accessibility that hasn't been around.

Andrea Faz
Speech language pathology senior from Del Rio

I'm not sure they'll replace all classes. I think they'll replace some classes, and I think it's okay for some classes that don't really pertain to your major. Probably more introductory courses, just to get you into your field or into other classes that you need.

Erika Cervantes
Public relations junior from Sugar Land

Well, I definitely think that, over the last five years or so, online classes are a lot more popular than they used to be. I feel like I don't have one friend that hasn't taken an online class. I don't think they'll end up replacing physical classes, though, just because I feel like, even though it's always been that way, it's a lot more effective to ask questions and being able to communicate in person. I don't think that would really switch to online. I don't think that'll change. I don't think it should change to being all online, because that takes away the human element. And I feel like we all kind of need that.

GALLERY



The Dreamliner: Smoking hot

Grayson Simmons

Daily Texan Columnist

Air travelers have a lot competing for their attention: the probing procedures of TSA employees, the lack of legroom, the fascinating pages of SkyMall. Few likely stop to consider how much the plane weighs. But because weight is perhaps the most important technical aspect of air travel, it is ever-present on the aerospace engineer's mind. The Boeing 787 twin-engine, mid-size wide-body jetliner is the new featherweight on the block. And though critics have found fault with this newcomer to the world of air travel, the 787 incorporates revolutionary facets of design that are, I hope, here to stay.

Aircraft stay in the sky by forcing themselves against air. Their wings are designed in such a way that when this happens, the air exerts a perpendicular force back and causes the aircraft to rise. This is called lift. Intuitively, the more a plane weighs, the more lift is required. To generate more lift, planes need big engines and more fuel, which doesn't come cheap.

Herein lies the 787's advantage. Until now, jetliners have been made primarily of aluminum. Aluminum is historically proven to be a metal with a lot of utility, but the composites that make up more than half of the 787 are even lighter and stronger. As a result, the 787 requires less fuel, which, ideally, could mean a cheaper plane ticket.

Hans Mark, former secretary of the

Air Force, professor of aerospace engineering and former deputy administrator of NASA, says, "What's revolutionary about the 787 is that it is primarily made of composite materials." Mark would know. He was involved in the development of the Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit "Stealth Bomber," a flying wing made entirely out of those materials. After the B-2's success, Boeing knew the composites were a viable option. "Without pioneering aircraft like the B-2, the 787 would never have been built," Mark says.

But, like all new aircraft, the 787 has its problems. Fifty 787 Dreamliners have been delivered to date, and every single one is currently grounded. Don't take that as a necessarily bad sign, though. New aircraft require comprehensive post-production testing; that's just how the aviation industry works. But in the 787's case, the testing process has been somewhat complicated. Because of the new technologies employed on the aircraft, the Dreamliner is behind schedule, over budget and experiencing some interesting problems.

In a typical jetliner, the turbofan engines suck in air, compress it, mix it with fuel and explode it out the back. A lot of energy is used to compress that air, so in a standard process, some of that hot pressurized air is redirected to other uses in the aircraft, like de-icing and cabin pressurization. This is not the case with the 787. Instead, the Dreamliner uses the engines as generators to

supply heavy duty lithium ion batteries which then power separate air compressors to meet the aircraft's needs. This results in more control over the pressurized air and an engine that is 20 percent more efficient than its predecessors. That's part of the reason the 787 has the potential to reshape air travel.

Unfortunately, this new technology may also result in fires. These new systems are having problems that were apparently hard to predict. There has been at least one fire and one account of smoke present on different 787 flights, as well as some other electrical and fuel leak problems. However, these should hardly be construed as a death sentence for the 787. Rather, they expose the dangers of inadequate testing and the price paid for it. Mark is confident that these battery problems are a "non-issue" in the long run, one he believes will be sorted out quickly. And for the consumer, it's not cause for concern. The FAA will not allow an unsafe aircraft to fly.

Birthing pains aside, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner is the way of the future. Composite materials have proven themselves and are now ready to be integrated into commercial air travel. A few years and ironed-out kinks down the road, other commercial aircraft manufacturers will be forced to follow suit or risk extinction. Mark predicts that, with this new design, Boeing is going to "beat the world."

Simmons is an aerospace engineering junior from Austin.

FIRING LINE

Childish adoration

Professor Allen Bard's discoveries "help doctors today detect HIV and analyze AIDS," but you wouldn't know it based on this interview [published Feb. 13], which was devoted entirely to praising President Obama. I find it extremely disrespectful that you would waste this brilliant man's time with questions such as, "What was it like to meet President Obama?" and "Had you ever been to the White House before?" These questions just smack of a

childish adoration for a president who blows up Middle Eastern children in the morning, goes on apology tours during the day and then wins Nobel Peace Prizes in the evening.

Did my lingering bit of respect for The Daily Texan's editorial board completely vanish after reading this shameful excuse for an interview? "Probably, probably it did."

—Oscar C. Blanken

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COLUMN

KUTX
Not just for old people

Eric Nikolaides

Daily Texan Columnist

On Jan. 2, 2013, Austin's legendary music scene was finally given a voice. Dubbed "The Austin Music Experience," KUTX 98.9 began broadcasting from the Belo Center for New Media on campus with high expectations. But the story of this new radio station really began last fall, when the UT System Board of Regents voted unanimously to purchase the 98.9 FM frequency and expand the reach of the University's public radio station, KUT 90.5. Before then, KUT, which is Austin's local NPR affiliate, had to split its programming between news and Austin-oriented music. With the launch of KUTX, KUT can now adopt an all-news format, which Austin needed badly as one of only two major market state capitals without a full-time news public radio station. And with the acquisition of the 98.9 frequency, KUTX can now provide a one-of-a-kind radio platform tailor-made for Austin's one-of-a-kind music scene.

But many people, including columnists writing for this newspaper, have criticized the University for investing in radio. Critics of the acquisition have argued that radio will be irrelevant within decades (and may already be irrelevant among college students). But Austin is a smart city, anchored by the presence of UT, and it has a uniquely committed relationship with public radio. NPR flourishes here; the University's KUT consistently ranks in the top handful of public radio stations nationwide by per capita listenership, and NPR programming is especially relevant to the UT community. It is clear that KUT and KUTX are immensely valuable to the city and the students who go to school here, and the Regents' decision to purchase the signal for the new station benefits all of us.

But what makes a radio station relevant? Last week, I had the chance to sit down with KUTX program director Matt Reilly to discuss the finer points of why we should care about the new station. According to Reilly, the music that KUTX plays on air is exactly what UT students want to hear. "If you look at college-aged kids, they're probably listening to the Lumineers, or Mumford & Sons, or Alt-J," he explained. "We're playing all that stuff." But, to be valuable to UT students, the station must go beyond the music on the airwaves. College students have countless options besides radio to find the music they want. Reilly made it clear that the entire KUTX operation has UT students in mind — from booking and promoting events on campus at the Cactus Café to filling their day-to-day staff with student interns, UT students are essential to the station. "We want to engage with the students here, and just let them know that this is this cool clubhouse that's here in the middle of campus that they can be a part of," he told me. He often grabs students out of the building that KUTX shares with the College of Communication and brings them into the studio to get involved.

Reilly's arguments largely fail to quell concerns that radio won't be relevant in the near future. Sure, the University's public radio stations might matter now, but why should we invest in a medium that won't matter in 20 or 30 years? Stewart Vanderwilt, general manager for KUT, argues that such concerns miss the point. "Anyone who thinks that a specific platform is going to endure forever is foolish," he admitted. "But the true value in what we do is not just the way it's delivered, but what the content is." Vanderwilt explained that KUT and KUTX are both committed to evolving and finding new ways to reach the public, but that both stations represent "The Austin Music Experience" in a way that no one else does. Both stations are providing a service for the Austin community that they couldn't provide without the UT Regents' investment in public radio.

There's really only one way to understand how important UT's public radio stations are: Listen. During our conversation, Vanderwilt challenged me to listen to one hour of KUT or KUTX programming per week and see how much of an impact it has on me. I am definitely taking the challenge, and every student at this University should too.

Nikolaides is a government and Spanish junior from Cincinnati, Ohio.

LEGALESE | Opinions expressed in The Daily Texan are those of the editor, the Editorial Board or the writer of the article or cartoonist. They are not necessarily those of the UT administration, the Board of Regents or the Texas Student Media Board of Operating Trustees.

CITY



Yamel Thompson | Daily Texan Staff

The Austin Police Department demonstrates the StarChase system, a new GPS vehicle tracking system, for local media Thursday afternoon. APD believes the new system will enhance the safety of the public and officers and lead to less violence.

APD to employ GPS tracking for chases

By Amanda Voeller

Austin police officers can now shoot GPS-equipped darts at vehicles while on the chase. The Austin Police Department debuted a new GPS vehicle tracking system, called StarChase, that allows officers to deploy a device similar to a dart from the front of their cars. The device sticks to the back of the vehicle police are pursuing and helps track the suspect, APD Chief Art Acevedo said. Acevedo said once the system is deployed and officers back off, the suspect tends to slow down, and there is less of a chance for violence. As APD pursues suspects who are endangering

innocent people, it believes StarChase will enhance the safety of officers and the public, Acevedo said. APD is the first agency in Texas to use the StarChase system, said Trevor Fischbach, president the company. The system costs \$4,900 per car, and replacement rounds cost \$250 apiece. A grant from the National Institute of Justice provided the funding for the system, Fischbach said. A compressed-air launcher mounted on the front of a police car uses a laser to target the suspicious vehicle and deploys the projectile, according to StarChase. The device then begins transmitting real-time GPS information to the police department, Acevedo said. According to StarChase,

“real-time” updates are every three to five seconds. According to the company, the technique, called Assisted GPS, uses signals from cellular carriers to track the device and is more accurate than traditional GPS. APD is training its officers and forming policies regarding the system, Acevedo said. He said a police department that is not willing to chase violent criminals is telling criminals they have a safe haven. “Municipal insurers will hopefully step up as well to help fund it,” Fischbach said. APD hopes to get more funding to use the system in more areas of the city, Acevedo said. The system will be deployed mostly in areas that have the highest

number of pursuits. According to Sergeant Stephen Fleming, the system is installed on a sufficient number of cars employed strategically throughout the city. The department may re-evaluate the program depending on how well the system is working. In 2012, the APD was involved in 135 pursuits, Acevedo said. “This tool will be huge for us,” Acevedo said. Miriam Stewart said her son was killed by a suspect in a high-speed police chase in June 2012. “Thank you to APD for initiating the StarChase system,” Stewart said. Fleming said the StarChase system would go live Thursday evening.

CAMPUS

Blanton presents talk on love in paintings

By Mark Carrion

In honor of Valentine’s Day, people had the opportunity to see love — quite literally. The Blanton Museum of Art’s Perspectives Gallery Talk held a talk titled “Images of Love,” featuring Blanton curatorial associate Catherine Zinser, who led a group of around 30 people through the galleries of the museum while explaining aspects of love in several works of art. The talk focused on the mythological character Cupid. Zinser said Cupid often has an unexplained presence in several paintings.

“[Cupid is] a very minor character in mythology,” she said. “Having a little bit more background information on this mythological character can help you interpret the stories.” Zinser said Cupid is the son of Venus, the Roman goddess of love, and is usually depicted as a young boy with wings and bows and arrows. Zinser also distinguished Cupid from cherubim, who she said were originally winged biblical angels with four heads. Cupid’s attendants, who are usually painted as babies, are called putti and typically symbolize sacred love, Zinser said. Throughout the tour, Zinser explained the role of Cupid as an indicator of the type of love depicted in works of art. She said the presence of Cupid and putti around female figures like Venus gave artists a pretext for rendering sensual images, as the characters symbolized pure love rather than profane love — making women the subject

“It’s a reminder of how love has been depicted over ages in art. Love is such an important thing in life, and this is a reminder of the beauty of that.” — Daniel Reyes, UT alumnus

of beauty rather than desire in paintings. Adam Bennett, manager of public programs at the Blanton Museum, oversees the gallery talks, which are held every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Bennett said the talks are a good opportunity to showcase different collections throughout the museum to the public. “I want to help connect people in the community to the visual art,” he said. Zinser said the gallery talks help her appreciate the art as well. “There is nothing like looking at art in person,” Zinser said. “It helps us understand these things within ourselves.” UT alumnus Daniel Reyes said he was inspired by the thought behind the artwork and the various roles Cupid plays in art. Reyes said the talk was both educational and personal. “It’s a reminder of how love has been depicted over ages in art,” he said. “Love is such an important thing in life, and this is a reminder of the beauty of that.”

SCIENCE

Lecture explores animal courtship

By Barak Bullock

The Science Under the Stars lecture series celebrated Valentine’s Day with a presentation on animal courtship at UT’s Brackenridge Field Laboratory on Thursday. Victoria Huang, an ecology, evolution and behavior graduate student, presented this month’s Science Under the Stars lecture, “Sex In The Animal Kingdom.” Huang discussed dozens of animals in her speech, including birds, fish, amphibians, arachnids, reptiles and mammals. Two examples provided were monogamous bald eagles who choose mates for life, and hermaphroditic clown fish who develop from males into females over time. Different kinds of sexual behavior were also covered,

including courtship, sex-role reversal, mating and homosexuality. Huang said some species of animals do not perceive homosexuality as a gender identity, but rather they may engage in it to acquire a stable mate to care for growing young. Additionally, Huang spoke about animals other than humans who pursue sex for pleasure, including dolphins and bonobos. Huang’s studies focus on the sexuality of a specific species of gecko, whose gender and brain chemistry are determined by the temperature of their incubation prior to birth. Huang said climate change could possibly affect the sex ratio in gecko populations in the future. “I’m looking at variation within males and how hormones are involved in their development and behavior,” Huang said.

Nichole Bennett, an ecology, evolution and animal behavior graduate student studying climate change biology, helped Huang prepare for her public presentation. Bennett gave her own Science Under The Stars lecture in April 2011 titled “Sex, Bugs & Rock ‘n’ Roll: Insects In Music.” “My job is to find speakers and help speakers turn their ideas into a public outreach talk,” Bennett said. According to Huang, she was an obvious choice for this month’s Science Under The Stars given the focus of her studies. Advertising graduate student Sarah Weinstein attended the lecture, and previous Science Under the Stars events. “I’ve been to these talks before, and [Huang’s] was one of the standout talks,” Weinstein said.

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BASEBALL

Horns host Hornets

UT cultivates infield depth in offseason

By Christian Corona
Daily Texan Columnist

Texas hit .263 as a team last year. The last time the Longhorns posted a team batting average that low, Tommy Harmon was a college freshman.

Harmon did his part for Texas that season, hitting .307 as the team's starting catcher in 1968, when the Longhorns hit .244 as a team. James Street, the same man who led the school's football team to a national championship in 1969, went 9-4 with a 1.86 ERA, leading a pitching staff that carried the Longhorns to their fourth straight Southwest Conference title.

After 23 years as an assistant coach, Harmon was replaced last year by another former Longhorn, 34-year-old Tommy Nicholson. Texas opens its season with a three-game series against Sacramento State, the school Nicholson left to return to the 40 Acres.

Texas wasn't able to overcome its offensive struggles last season, missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1998. Parker French and Nathan Thornhill return to lead a Longhorns pitching staff

OPENER continues on page 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Kabongo preps for road game; Longhorns face resilient KU

By Nick Cremona

During his 23-game suspension, Myck Kabongo was unable to travel with the Longhorns, but on Saturday he will start on the road against Kansas with a double-overtime home win over Iowa State under his belt.

He'll face quite the road test in his second game back. It's been two years since Texas last won in Lawrence, and the Jayhawks are a few days removed from a big win over in-state rival Kansas State.

But before their dominant win over the Wildcats, the Jayhawks had lost three straight Big 12 games including a home loss to Oklahoma State. The loss to the Cowboys snapped a 32-game home winning streak dating back to

last season.

Freshman Ben McLemore leads Kansas in scoring at 16.8 points per game and is coming off his second 30-point game of the year. McLemore scored 16 against Texas in the Jayhawks' 64-59 win in Austin on Jan. 19.

"I do think Myck being in the lineup will give us another perimeter defender and allow us to put another defender on McLemore," assistant coach Russell Springmann said.

Kabongo may have missed the last ten minutes against Iowa State earlier this week, but he brought life to Rick Barnes' offense just enough for Texas to hang on for the win in double overtime.

Connor Lammert found out just how beneficial Kabongo's presence could be for the Longhorns, scoring 28 combined points in his

Texas @ Kansas



Date: Saturday
Time: 8 p.m.
On air: ESPN

return. Lammert had a career night and made sure the game would not reach triple overtime, showing some serious grit in the extra periods.

"We're 1-0 with our full team," Kabongo said in a brief statement following the game.

Kabongo has been practicing with his teammates all year, and now he gets the first chance to travel and play with them. With his presence on the road the Longhorns may finally stir up the confidence to win their first game on the road since November 21.



Shelby Tauber | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman forward Connor Lammert scored a career-high 14 points in the Longhorns' double-overtime win over Iowa State.



Chelsea Purgahn | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman shortstop C.J. Hinojosa (9) rounds the bases in the the annual alumni game held Feb. 2. After deciding against enrolling early at Texas last year, Hinojosa graduated from Klein Collins High School on time and is ready to make an impact in the Longhorns' lineup.

C.J. Hinojosa gets first opportunity to contribute at shortstop for Texas

By Sara Beth Purdy

This Friday, the Longhorns will finally get their first glimpse of freshman C.J. Hinojosa, the No. 3 shortstop recruit in the nation, according to Perfect Game, who went to Klein Collins High School in Spring. After several unfortunate mishaps, Hinojosa is finally taking the field in his first collegiate series Friday against Sacramento State.

The first pitch is slated for 6:30 p.m. Friday evening at UFCU Disch-Falk Field.

The Longhorns will look to Hinojosa to fill several different roles this season. Hinojosa was a powerful force at the plate in high school, before a season-ending injury last year, and his talents will be a positive addition to the power-lacking Texas offense. In addition, his abilities at shortstop will help an infield that committed 70 errors in 52

games in 2012.

Hinojosa originally tried to graduate from high school early and enroll in time for last year's spring season. However, the large academic responsibility of graduating early took a toll on Hinojosa, who decided against graduating early back in December 2011.

"It was really disappointing. I did everything that I could," Hinojosa said of missing out on the opportunity to play for the Longhorns in 2012.

Scouts had been following him since his early playing days in high school,

Texas @ Sacramento State



Date: Friday
Time: 6:30 p.m.
On air: LHN

and when Hinojosa was drafted by the Houston Astros in the 26th round of the 2012 MLB First-Year Player Draft, many were wary of him ever coming to the 40 Acres. After much consideration, the promise

CHOICE continues on page 7

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Marisa Vasquez | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman center Imani McGee-Stafford (34) has won the last three Big 12 Freshman of the Week awards, but her team is struggling.

Aston raises concerns

By Matt Warden

The third time wasn't a charm for the Longhorns on Wednesday, but the fourth needs to be come Sunday.

Texas (9-14, 2-10) will carry a three-game losing skid into its matchup with Texas Tech (18-7, 8-5) this weekend after suffering a 21-point loss to Kansas State. The loss gave the Longhorns a 1-5 record on the road in Big 12 play this season, which raised some concern for head coach Karen Aston.

"I thought this was probably as lackluster of a performance from our team that I have seen definitely in conference play," Aston said after the loss to the Wildcats. "We just did not compete tonight at all. They were a million times more competitive than our team was."

In their last meeting with the Red Raiders, the Longhorns entered the game on a four-game conference losing streak before dropping the contest by a narrow, 66-59 margin. Inexperience had a great deal to do with the first loss, but this time around a lack of cohesion won't do for the Longhorns' head coach.

After earning Big 12 Freshman of the Week honors for the fourth time last week, Imani McGee-Stafford left a lot to be desired against

Texas @ Texas Tech



Date: Sunday
Time: 2:30 p.m.
On air: FSN

Kansas State. Her 20 points and 12 rebounds kept the Longhorns in the game against Tech last time out and the ball will most likely find her hands a great deal on Saturday.


Another player to watch in this matchup will be freshman Empress Davenport, who has scored in double figures in three consecutive games. She will also be expected to carry a big load on the defensive end as she will be matched up with guard Chynna Brown, who is averaging 12.2 points per game on 44.8 percent shooting.

Brown had 20 points against Texas in their matchup Jan. 16, but poor shooting down the stretch is what sealed its fate that night. After attempting just five three-pointers against Kansas State, expect Texas to come out firing from the field to get McGee-Stafford and Nneka Enemkpali easier looks inside.


Texas will need to find their heart and their shooting touch if they want to escape Lubbock with a win this weekend.

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HEAT
110




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NCAAB




(20) WISCONSIN
53




MINNESOTA
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ST. JOHN'S
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72




(9) ARIZONA
58



COLORADO
71

TOP TWEET



Kendall Sanders
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"Just got checked by a squirrel haha"

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Trio of Longhorns honored by Big 12

Three Longhorns were named to the Academic All-Big 12 Men's basketball team on Thursday. Senior Andrew Dick was named to the first team, and fellow former walk-on senior Dean Melchionni earned second team honors along with sophomore Jaylen Bond. First team members must maintain a 3.20 grade point average while second team members must reach at least a 3.19 GPA. It is the first time any of the three has earned this recognition. Two or more Longhorns have been on the first or second team in seven of the past eight seasons, including J'Covan Brown most recently in 2012.

USA Baseball adds Knebel to watch list

Junior Corey Knebel has been named to Golden Spikes Award Watch List by USA Baseball. The watch list is comprised of fifty players from around the nation, and is updated in a rolling fashion throughout the season. The 36th annual Golden Spikes Award will be presented Friday, July 19. Eleven Longhorns have previously been named finalists for the award. With 28 career saves, Knebel needs 13 saves this year to tie the Texas all-time record of 41 saves. He tied the school single-season record for saves (19) as a freshman in 2011.

—Nick Cremona

LONGHORNS IN THE NBA

Kevin Durant
- 40 points
- 8 rebounds



SOFTBALL





Zachary Strain | Daily Texan Staff
Freshman Holly Kern tossed her first career shutout and improved to 2-0 on the season in a recent 6-0 win over Stephen F. Austin.

Horns head to Houston, face tough tourney tests

By Jori Epstein

HILTON HOUSTON PLAZA INVITATIONAL

Texas vs. DePaul



Date: Friday
Time: 10 a.m.

Texas’ lucky number is six these days.

Sixth in the national polls. Six wins in six games this year. Six runs in its last win. And Taylor Hoagland, who wears No. 6 on her jersey, is six runs away from the Texas career runs record Lexy Bennett currently holds. But now the Longhorns are looking beyond their comfort zone for game seven, competing in their first away games of the season at the Hilton Houston Plaza Invitational.

“We’re working forward going into another tournament this weekend and I plan to give all four pitchers looks this weekend,” head coach Connie Clark said. “I’d love to see all four be able to contribute. Especially in tournaments of five games in three days, it’s nice to have a solid staff.”

The Longhorns play DePaul and Illinois on Friday, Illinois and Houston on Saturday and DePaul again on Sunday for the tournament. The Longhorns are 6-0 all-time against the Blue Demons and won 11-3 in a five-inning victory March 17, 2011 in their last meeting. Texas has never faced the Fighting Illini, but it holds a 38-35 record against current

Big Ten conference teams.

Defensively, the team’s .964 fielding percentage hurts opposing batters, as freshman pitcher Holly Kern (2-0) attributes her confidence and success to teammates who “make a great play to keep the ball infield or a diving catch in the outfield.”

Offensively, Texas has won 91 percent of games since 2010 when scoring a run in the first inning. Freshman Stephanie Ceo threatens pitchers with a .667 batting average to dominate the team’s .345 for the season. The team’s batting average reaches .373 when up to the plate with two outs, coming in 20 of 38 season runs from those plays.

“I think that tells you we’re in a great warrior kind of mindset,” Clark said of the two-out runs. “They continue to play and that’s what we ask our athletes to do — to get to the next pitch — and we’re scoring with it.”



The Longhorns open the 2013 season Friday night against the Sacramento State Hornets. Texas returns three infielders from last year and is bolstered by two junior college transfers.

Jorge Corona
Daily Texan Staff

OPENER

continues from page 6

that is good enough to get them to Omaha. But the Texas hitters have to do their part.

The Longhorns have three returning starters from last year’s infield, and yet only one of them may start — at a different position. When head coach Augie Garrido fills out his lineup card, he could have junior college

transfer Madison Carter at third base, freshman C.J. Hinojosa at shortstop, junior Erich Weiss at second base and another junior college transfer, 6-foot-6 Codey McElroy, at first base.

“My idea of an RBI guy is a guy that can get a single with runners on second and third in the bottom of the ninth when you’re a run behind,” Garrido said. “He’s going to get a slider. Can he hit it? Can he hit a single up the middle? If he can, we win

the game. If he can’t, we don’t win the game. That’s what Madison can do.”

Weiss, the team’s leading hitter each of the last two years, started at third base as a freshman and sophomore but will return to the position he played for three years as a high schooler in Brenham. He’ll be playing at a position that Brooks Marlow started 51 games at last year.

“Brooks Marlow is a front-line player,” Garrido said. “It isn’t against the rules to have depth. We

could have used some of that in the past, but since it is in the past we can stop whining about it.”

Depth in their lineup will be something the Longhorns will need to improve from last year’s 30-22 disappointment. And to do that, Texas has to be more productive with its bats in 2013. If the Longhorns do indeed have more offensive weapons, they’ve got a chance to do some special things. If not, it could be another long year.

CHOICE

continues from page 6

of a good education and a chance to play under Texas head coach Augie Garrido convinced Hinojosa to become a Longhorn.

“A college education is big,” Hinojosa said. “I don’t want to have nothing to fall back on.”

Hinojosa’s senior season was cut short, however, after he underwent elective surgery to repair damage in his non-throwing shoulder. The damage, he said, was likely caused by landing too many times on his shoulder while trying to catch balls up the middle.

After having surgery and sitting out most of his senior season at Klein Collins, Hinojosa is slowly getting back to form just in time for the start of the season.

“I thought I wasn’t going to play baseball again at the level that I wanted to,” Hinojosa admitted about the process of recovering after his injury. “I didn’t know if I could come back strong enough.”

Although he is not 100 percent back to the full capabilities that he had in high school, only the little things, like speed and power at the plate, need to be tweaked.

“He’s an old baseball soul,” Garrido said. “He knows the game, knows how to play

it, he has good instincts. But he’s been away from the game for a long time. He’s doing OK, he’s getting into shape. He’s quicker and stronger.”

The coaching staff has been keeping this weekend’s starting lineup pretty close to the vest. Only part of the starting pitching staff has been announced with any certainty. However, Garrido has mentioned Hinojosa could find himself at sixth in the batting order and most expect him to start at shortstop when Sacramento State comes to town this weekend.

Until that decision is finalized, Hinojosa is just focused on becoming a better ball player and is intent

on helping the Longhorns make it to Omaha.

“You got to go out there and have a good attitude and play your game,” Hinojosa said. “Coach Garrido says to carry yourself like a major league baseball player, so that’s what I am going to do.”

What he wants people to know most about him is that despite the injury, despite being recruited by major league scouts, and despite all of the attention he has received as a top-ranked recruit, he is a really hard-working baseball player who likes the simple things about the game.

“I like to hit,” Hinojosa said simply. “I like to square it up.”

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

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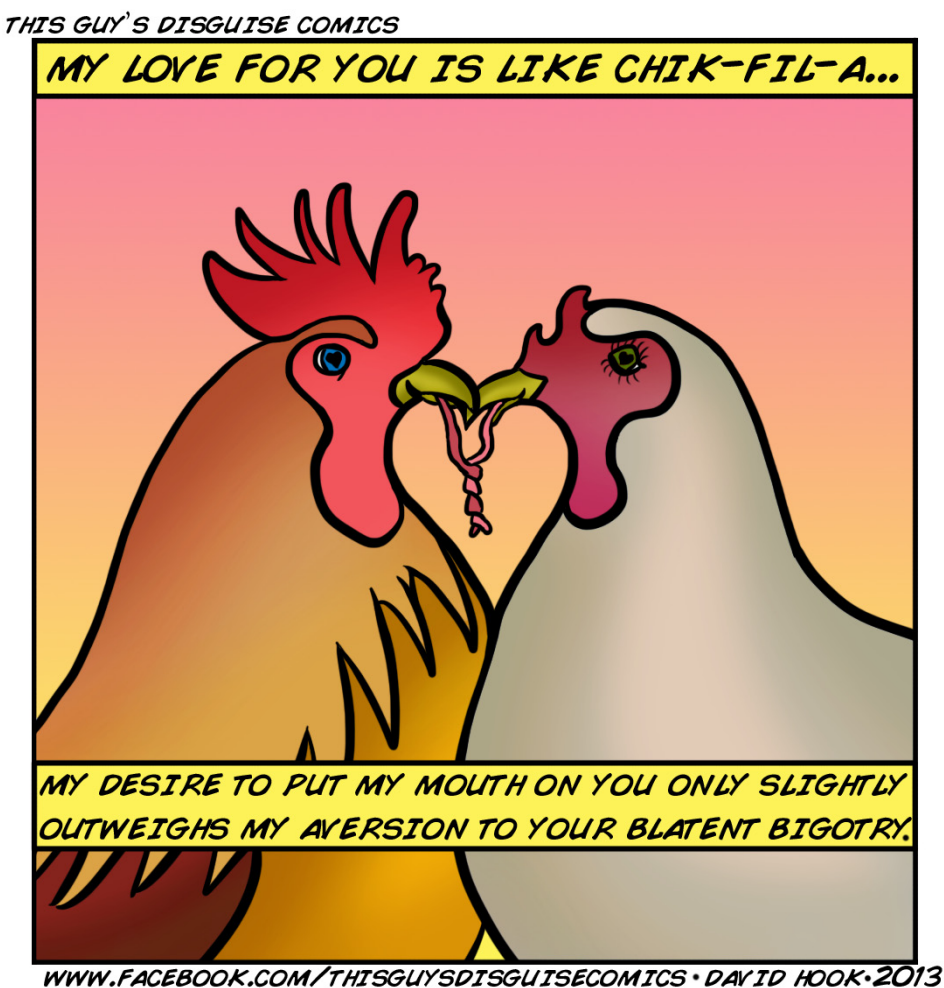
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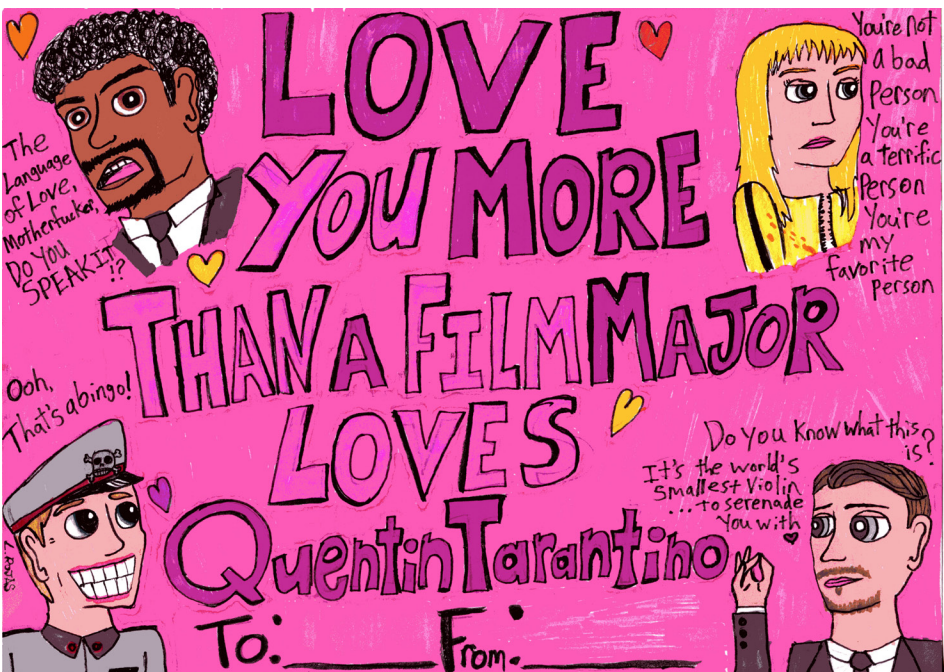
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Puzzle by IAN LIVINGOOD

32 Tennyson title lady	43 Russian dressing?	50 "Tower Heist" actor, 2011
33 Big piece of cabbage	44 Slip site	52 Hatchery supply
35 Chain selling desserts	45 College town on the Stillwater River	54 Get tripped up
37 Complimentary robe providers	46 E-pubs	55 Mr. ____ (Clue-like board game)
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LOCAL LIVE

Full Service offers feel-good music of all genres

By Alexandra Hart

Don't call Full Service a reggae band. Or a metal band, or a surf-rock outfit. In fact, trying to assign the rockers a specific genre is futile. Even the guys in the band don't like to classify themselves as any specific type of music.

"We have stuff that's pretty heavy, almost metal really, besides the vocals," drummer and singer Hoag said, talking about their sound and trying to find bands with which to tour. "Playing with metal bands wouldn't work, though. A reggae thing wouldn't work, I mean it has worked before, but it's just not a perfect fit. The folksy-Americana thing that's popular right now doesn't work and the hipster stuff definitely wouldn't work."

Their whole philosophy is a departure from that of most local bands. Besides not limiting themselves to any particular style of music, they have no intention of becoming particularly famous or getting signed. They adhere to a strict grassroots-oriented mindset, drawing from their devoted fan base for help with touring, booking and promotion. And all four go exclusively by their nicknames: Tim "Bonesaw" Kepner on guitar and vocals; his brother Dave "Hoag" Kepner on drums and lead vocals; Elliott "Smell" Larden on percussion, vocals and keys; and Sean "Sunny" Eckel on bass.

"Honestly, we have trouble finding bands that fit with us to tour with, because of the way we look and sometimes the way we play," Bonesaw said. "We've gotten offers to play with reggae-rock sort of bands in our earlier days, but we've found ourselves not wanting to go that route and getting pigeonholed that way."

Based on looks alone, it's



Full Service band members showcase their threads and pets outside their home Tuesday afternoon for their upcoming Circus mini festival in May. The band is known for standing out from the crowd since they do not limit themselves to a specific genre of music.

Jonathan Garza
Daily Texan Staff

easy to see why the guys get pinned as reggae rockers. All four have long, unkempt manes, topped off with bright headbands and impressive beards. Smell's got wicked dreads. They often play shirtless. Full Service, as a whole, gives off a carefree and laid-back vibe. But the band's music goes beyond its appearances. Hoag cites the Beach Boys and Guns N' Roses as a few of his influences.

"I'm very influenced by the Beach Boys, at least vocally," he said. "I love their vocals, and try to put that in a context that's a little more rock. I try to incorporate that sound and use it over different grooves. But that's just vocally. Growing up, we were into those bands that were more like a crew, like Guns N' Roses."

Bonesaw elaborated on this idea, noting that the concept

of having a band that was a cohesive group of friends creating music together was a priority over adhering to a specific style of music.

"We're more influenced by the band lifestyle," Bonesaw said. "Not the party hard, do drugs sort of thing, but camaraderie of being a team that works together and goes out and explores the world together and collaborates and creates together. We're influenced by those types of bands that are posesses."

The band has found success with its relaxed and fluid approach to making music. Full Service gained attention in 2008 during its "Takeover Tour," where it followed a 311 and Snoop Dogg tour around and played unofficial shows in the parking lots of the venues. The venture attracted 311's attention, and Full Service has

played with 311 several times since then, including playing for 311's Caribbean Cruise.

Next up for Full Service is its very own mini-festival, the Full Service Circus, May 3-5. Bonesaw says it's an opportunity to host the band's fans in its home city and gain exposure, while reinventing its image. The band recently put out an acoustic album, *Roaming Dragons*, which the band considers a "big divergence" from its typical sound.

"Part of the theme currently is really making a firm break from that perception [of being a reggae band] because that's not really what we are," Bonesaw said. "We completely reinvented ourselves on that acoustic album as a stripped-down version of ourselves. Reinventing ourselves that way, sort of having two bands, two versions of ourselves, has

“Not the party hard, do drugs sort of thing, but camaraderie of being a team that works together and goes out and explores the world together and collaborates and creates together.”

—Tim "Bonesaw" Kepner, guitarist and singer

given us more flexibility."

Full Service's outside the box ideology when it comes to building its fan base and managing the band has given it a way to distinguish itself in a city full of aspiring musicians.

"We've been around for a while. We're getting older. We've been able to do more than a lot of bands ever get to do," Bonesaw said. "But we're ready to make that next big jump, and we're hoping Circus will be that thing that takes us further."

FULL SERVICE

Where: HSM
When: Sunday: line forms at 9 p.m., show starts at 10 p.m.
Cost: Free

Students who wish to be in the audience for the "Local Live" taping of Full Service can pick up wristbands from the business office located on the ground floor of the William Randolph Hearst Building (HSM) at 1 p.m. Friday.

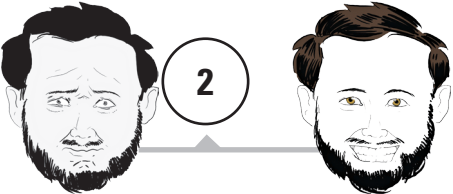
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Long and eschewing the practical, large-scale action sequences of the original trilogy with spastic editing and CGI-heavy set pieces.

Timothy Olyphant isn't the most memorable villain, getting to glower a lot but not much else. Even so, it has its moments, especially when McClane leaps from a demolished semi-truck to the wing of a crashing fighter jet just before jumping into the remains of a wrecked freeway to escape the ensuing explosion.

Fatigue starts to set in for the crowd, and several audience members duck out of the theater to hit Sixth Street. The ones that stick around start to get fidgety, and the click of people playing with their lighters only gets annoying after roughly 10 seconds. There are a few cheers here and there, especially when McClane tosses a baddie into some sort of computer equipment that requires intimidating meat grinders, but there's nary a laugh to be heard when Kevin Smith appears as "comic relief."

The fourth film ends to a defined smattering of applause. No trailers for the last film — this is the main event, and we're all business.



A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD (2013, 97 MINUTES)

Three minutes into "A Good Day to Die Hard," I order a John McClane Bloody Mary, figuring I'm going to need it. After an opening exposition dump, the fifth installment finds McClane heading to Russia to retrieve his son, Jack (Jai Courteney), who has grown up to be a secret agent capable of large-scale destruction his father could only dream of.

McClane quickly injects himself into the proceedings, and as "A Good Day to Die Hard" unfolds, the overwhelming sound system becomes an aural assault, every tin-eared line of dialogue hurting just as much as the incomprehensible action scenes. After 10 hours of "Die Hard," it can become difficult to distinguish good from bad and logical from illogical, but you certainly know

WE WANT TO KNOW

What's your favorite favorite
"Die Hard" movie?
Let us know at:
bit.ly/dt_DieHard

how to spot a "Die Hard" film, and "A Good Day to Die Hard" is the furthest thing from it.

John McClane is easily one of the most likeable heroes of action cinema, and audiences are happy to follow him into any situation, but Bruce Willis isn't playing John McClane in this film. He's playing an ignorant, uncaring jerk, someone who causes enough damage to fuel an international incident before he's even spoken to his son and then stumbles around Russia shooting things and yelling, "I'm on vacation!" McClane doesn't even have anything to do in the film's narrative — this time, he's the sidekick, and when the climactic showdown finally comes, he doesn't kill any of the film's main antagonists, leaving the heavy lifting to his son.

"A Good Day to Die Hard" might work if the film was at least well put together, but parts of it are staggeringly incompetent, to the point where entire action scenes unfold without you ever really understanding who is where, and why.

CONCLUSION

Once "A Good Day to Die Hard" ended, a shell-shocked audience vacated into the chilly hustle and bustle of Sixth Street, relieved to be free of the increasingly sweaty Alamo Ritz. I smelled fresh air at 11:47, the first time in twelve hours and seventeen minutes, and while it was nice to be among the world of the living again, I was kind of sad there were no more explosions to absorb and no more "Yippee-ki-yay, motherfucker's to celebrate. More than that, I was glad to live in a city where a "Die Hard" marathon on a Wednesday afternoon would play to a packed house. As Greg MacLennan, a Drafthouse programmer, said before the first film, 12 long hours earlier: "We don't get to do these stupid, ill-advised ideas unless there are dumb, irresponsible people to come do with them with us."

“We don't get to do these stupid, ill-advised ideas unless there are dumb, irresponsible people to come do with them with us.”

—Greg MacLennan, a Drafthouse programmer

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HOW TO DIE HARD

By Alex Williams



It's 11:30 a.m. on Sixth Street the day after Fat Tuesday. The street is quiet and empty, and what possible reason could I have to be here? The answer is found in the Alamo Ritz, the Drafthouse's downtown location, where a sold-out audience slowly trickles in for what promises to be an intense marathon of movie-watching: "A Whole Day to Die Hard," all five "Die Hard" films, one after another, until we're finished (or bleeding out of multiple orifices).

A quick montage of "Die Hard" clips unfurls, accompanied by live pyrotechnics, and Drafthouse programmers Zack Carlson and Greg MacLennan take to the stage. They point out to the audience that we've all been given a custom Zippo lighter and a Twinkie, because "All you need to survive is one Twinkie and a Zippo lighter."

The programmers introduce the first film as "an indelible masterpiece of action cinema," and after some vintage Bruce Willis trailers ("Hudson Hawk" and "12 Monkeys"), the marathon begins with 1988's "Die Hard."



Illustration by Colin Zelinski | Daily Texan Staff



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DIE HARD (1988, 131 MINUTES)

It's about time for my morning coffee (just after noon), but "Die Hard" proves to be an energizing alternative, and the audience reacts to the film like they're watching it for the very first time — big laughs for each of McClane's witty rejoinders and applause for his infamous punchline: "Yippee-ki-yay, motherfucker!"

"Die Hard" is an effortlessly enjoyable film, with great action, witty dialogue and engaging characters. It's the best possible version of the blow-'em-up genre, giving us one of the genre's most iconic figures in Bruce Willis' John McClane and an equally memorable antagonist in Alan Rickman's Hans Gruber.

Every mention of Twinkies brings another wave of crinkling wrappers. I bite into mine more than halfway through the film. Maybe the Drafthouse ordered up a special batch for us, but they were far more delicious than I remember them being in elementary school — especially when you dip them in coffee.

"Die Hard" wraps up to uproarious applause, and it's all downhill from here. Greg and Zack return to the stage, ribbing each other about Zack's notorious dislike for the next film, and the audience is ready to die harder.

which would be fine if it wasn't such a shining example of the law of diminishing returns. Many returning characters are shoehorned in for plot convenience, McClane's one-liners are a lot cheesier (probably thanks to Willis' new improvisational freedom) and the villain isn't nearly as compelling, despite being introduced while doing naked kung fu in front of a mirror.

Thankfully, there's an easy way to make bad movies better, and it's called beer. I can't resist dipping into the Drafthouse's special marathon menu to compliment my first pint, and the John McClanewich — a steak, onion and cheese sandwich — proves to be delicious, despite a noticeably meager portion size.

Far worse films than "Die Hard 2" have fared well on the main screen of the Alamo Ritz, because it's hard to pick out a film's flaws when your expectations are being blasted away by the booming surround sound. This film has a higher degree of audience participation than any of the others. Every big McClane moment gets claps and cheers, especially when he stabs a baddie in the eye with an ice pick.

I'm starting to spot recurring themes in the series: McClane's distaste for technology carries across the first four films, and the film hilariously dates itself when a character tells him to "Wake up and smell the '90s." Even better, this one kicks off the "Die Hard" series' hard-fought war on science, staging its climax with John McClane fighting terrorists on the wing of a moving airplane before he improbably blows it up with an enthusiastic "Yippee-ki-yay, motherfucker!"

York City. For the "Die Hard" series to avoid becoming stale, they have to expand the scale and up the stakes for each subsequent film, and this one functions as an exciting, promising mission statement for the rest of the franchise.

Jeremy Irons stars as bad guy Simon Gruber, hellbent on getting revenge on McClane for his brother's death in the first film. Playing an elaborate game of Simon Says, he forces McClane to team up with sidekick Zeus (Samuel L. Jackson). Jackson's easy chemistry with Willis is palatable and ends up being the most enjoyable part of the overlong but wildly entertaining "Die Hard With a Vengeance."

In this one, a bomb (a high-tech, infallible bomb to boot) planted in an elementary school in New York causes mass panic. Similarly, John McClane once again defies physics and logic as he surfs on an overturned semi-truck in a flooded underground tunnel. Just before McClane lets out his trademark line, I order up a Yippie-Pie-Yay Motherfucker: a warm, crispy slice of apple pie.



By the time the credits roll on "Die Hard With a Vengeance," I'm refreshed and ready for the last two films of the marathon.



4

DIE HARD 2: DIE HARDER (1990, 124 MINUTES)

It's easy to see why people pile on "Die Hard 2." The film simply can't live up to the sterling reputation of its predecessor,



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DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE (1995, 131 MINUTES)

This is another repurposed script, but the film fits comfortably in the "Die Hard" universe, sending John McClane on a series of wild goose chases all over New



6

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (2007, 128 MINUTES)

Or as I like to call it, "Live Free or Die Pretty Limp." The first (and only) PG-13 "Die Hard" film has aged since its lukewarm reception upon its initial theatrical release, and it's easily better than "Die Hard 2," despite masking McClane's climactic catchphrase with a gunshot. "Live Free or Die Hard" illustrates a stark contrast between modern and retro action sensibilities, replacing McClane's traditional sidekick with a dweeby hacker played by Justin

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Die Hard 20 bodies	Live Free or Die Hard 31 bodies
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Die Hard With a Vengeance 26 bodies	




Photo courtesy of Silver Pictures